



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Wyoming State Office
P.O. Box 1828
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003-1828

In Reply Refer To:

1793 (930)
Anticline

10 MAY 2000

Dear Reviewer:

This Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) on the proposed *Pinedale Anticline Natural Gas Exploration and Development Project* is provided for your review and comment. This is an abbreviated FEIS which contains only minor changes made to the Draft EIS (DEIS), published November 26, 1999, in response to comments consisting of technical, editorial, or nonsubstantive factual corrections. Because this FEIS is an abbreviated final, this document and the DEIS comprise the entire document for filing purposes and for the decisionmaking process. Please refer to the draft for more detailed analysis and descriptions of the proposed action and alternatives.

Written comments on this FEIS will be considered in the Record of Decision (ROD) if they are received within 30 days of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Federal Register publication of the Notice of Availability of the FEIS. The anticipated publication date is June 2, 2000. During the 30-day review period, written comments on the content of the FEIS or concerns that should be considered in the decision process will be accepted at the address noted on the following abstract page. Comments received during this period will be considered in the decisionmaking process. The anticipated date by which comments should be received is July 5, 2000.

The Pinedale Anticline EIS identifies the need for an amendment of a Pinedale Resource Management Plan (RMP) off-road vehicle (ORV) designation. This EIS proposal to *amend* the Pinedale RMP Mount Airy and Desert General ORV "open" area designations (see DEIS Figure 3-8) to "limited to existing roads and trails" is *protestable*. This is the only part of the Pinedale Anticline EIS that is protestable under the BLM Planning Regulations (43 CFR 1610.5-2). Anyone disagreeing with the proposed decision to change the ORV designation within the Pinedale Anticline project area must file a written protest within the 30-day review period for the FEIS. The proposed *amendment* may be protested by parties who participated in the Pinedale Anticline EIS process, who have an interest which is, or may be, adversely affected by the proposed change, and who raised issue with ORV use during the EIS process. The protest must be postmarked within 30-days following the date that the EPA publishes the filing notice for the FEIS in the Federal Register and should be sent to the Director (210), Bureau of Land Management, Attention: Brenda Williams, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

The protest must include the following information: (1) the name, mailing address, telephone number, and interest of the person filing the protest; (2) a statement of the issue(s) submitted during the DEIS review process by the protesting party, or an indication of the date the issue(s) were discussed for the record; (3) a statement of the part(s) of the recommendation being protested; (4) a copy of all documents addressing the issue(s) that were submitted during the DEIS review process by the protesting party, or an indication of the date the issue(s) were discussed for the record; and (5) a concise statement explaining why the proposed decision is believed to be wrong.

At the end of the 30-day protest period, the proposed change, if not protested, will become final. If a protest is received, approval of oil and gas development will be based upon the existing ORV designation until final action on the protest has been completed. Any significant change made as a result of a protest will be made available for public review and comment before it is approved.

A copy of the FEIS has been sent to affected Government agencies and to those persons who responded to scoping or otherwise indicated to the BLM that they wished to receive a copy of the EIS. Copies of the FEIS may be obtained upon request from the BLM at the following locations:

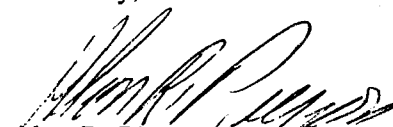
Bureau of Land Management
Wyoming State Office
5353 Yellowstone Road
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009

Bureau of Land Management
Rock Springs Field Office
280 Highway 191 North
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901

Bureau of Land Management
Pinedale Field Office
432 East Mill Street
Pinedale, Wyoming 82941

Comments, including the names and street addresses of respondents, will be made available for review by the public at the Pinedale and Rock Springs Field Offices during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays, and will be published as part of the ROD. However, individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name and/or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Sincerely,


Alan R. Pierson
State Director